THAT'S WHY I DON'T THINK I CAN SPEND MUCH TIME PLAYING WITH YOU.
...
I'LL BE ATTENDING CRAM SCHOOL.
STARTING TOMORROW.
...HMM
IS IT FOR YOUR HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS?
YEAH
I UNDER-STAND.
Do your best.
Thanks.
3
NAKATSU

HE WON'T PLAY WITH ME AT ALL!
DON'T BOTHER HIM WHILE HE'S BUSY STUDYING
I BOUGHT A NEW GAME!
I HAVE A TON OF HOMEWORK
HE WENT TO THE LIBRARY WITH A FRIEND
I'm sorry
I'M SORRY.
Let's play it next time
.....
HEY, HEY. DO YOU WANT TO PLAY JUNIOR BASEBALL?
YOU'D SEE THIS ANYWHERE
I DON'T THINK THIS IS SOMETHING UNCOMMON

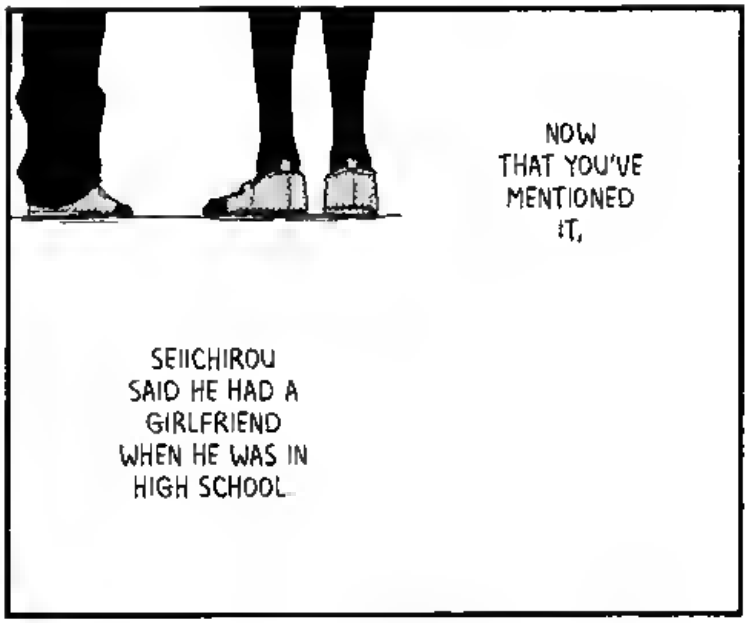
step.4

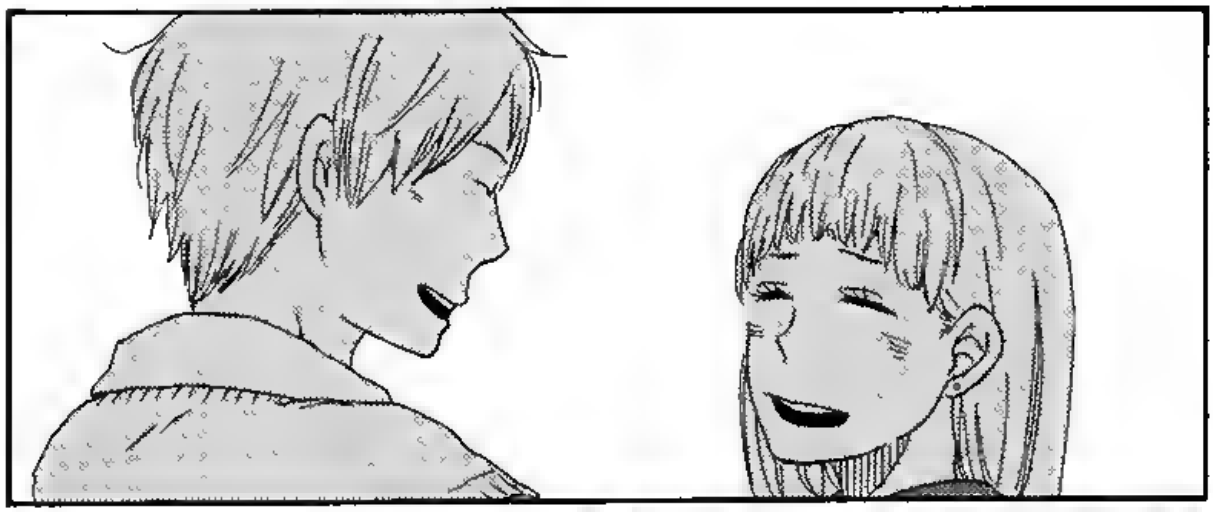
I MIGHT HAVE ASCENDED THE STAIRWAY TO ADULTHOOD...
SO, YEAH...
He'll make a fuss
KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM SANO-CHAN, WILL YOU?
AH
WHOOOA!
.....
I COULDN'T THINK STRAIGHT, SO I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
WEEELL...
HMM...
HOW DID IT GO?
HO-

WE EVENTUALLY FELL ASLEEP AFTER THAT.
AH
BUT
This is impossible!
It hurts! I can't do this!
Ah! Don't cry!
SHE KEPT SAYING IT HURT AT THE END, SO I JUST!!
That's...
I did it wrong the whole time!
MY GIRLFRIEND WAS BESIDE ME.
WHEN I WOKE UP,
...THAT KIND OF THING IS SO NICE.
1 - 3
IT IS!!
THAT MUST BE HAPPINESS.

what date...
LAST TIME, YOU WENT ON AN AFTER SCHOOL DATE, RIGHT?
BECAUSE YOU WERE BEING PUSHY...
THERE'S NOT MUCH.
UHH?
ANYWAY, HOW'S IT GOING BETWEEN YOU AND SAKURAI?
I THOUGHT YOU TWO HAD SOMETHING GOOD GOING ON.
Eh~
IS THAT SOOO?
I DON'T KNOW IF SHE THINKS IT'S A DATE ANYWAY.
THOSE TWO ARE...
:;:; that.
O.o
SORRY ABOUT THIS, OKAZAKI.
I'm borrowing him.
AH... IT'S NOTHING.
Sure
!!!
NAO-CHAN
RYOU, CAN I TALK TO YOU?

I WONDER IF THEY DID IT


NOW THAT YOU'VE MENTIONED IT,
SEIICHIROU SAID HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.

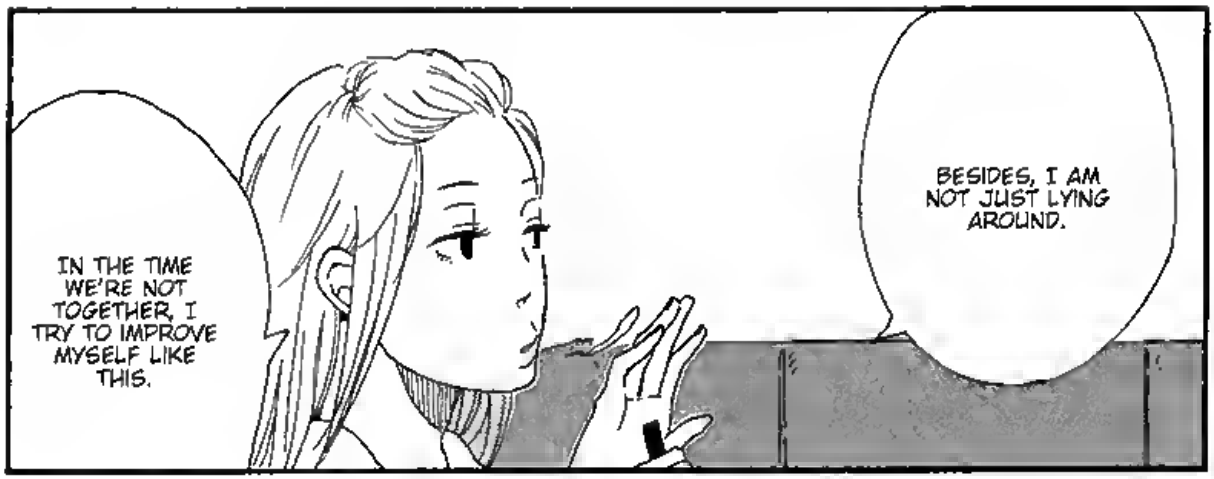


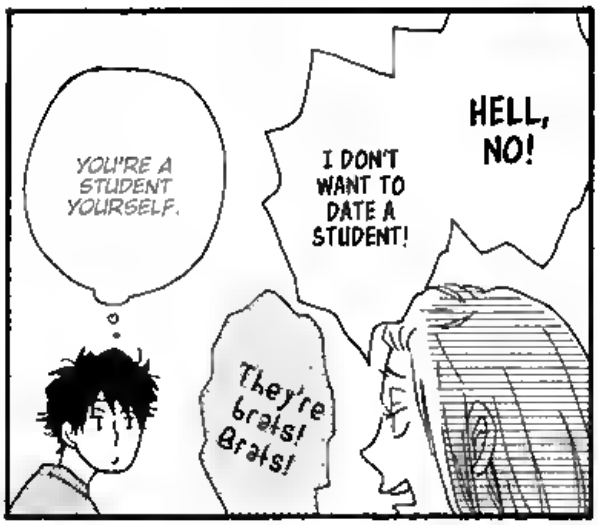
NOT WITH SOMEONE WHOSE NAME YOU DON'T KNOW.
THAT KIND OF THING IS NICE.

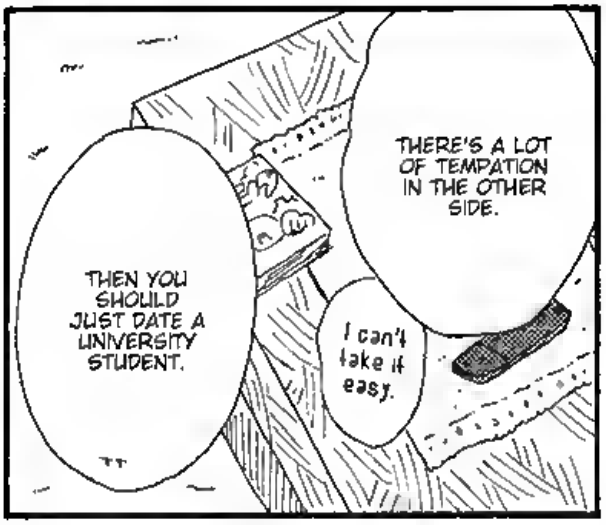
WHEN I WAKE UP,
THE ONE BESIDE ME IS...
I'M AWAKE!!
FALLS
WHOA!

WHAT? GEEZ, YOU SCARED ME.
WHY
YOU MADE ME MISS.
A DREAM.
WHY WOULD SEIICHIROU APPEAR IN MY DREAM?
TO MAKE IT WORSE...
HE WAS NAKED.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

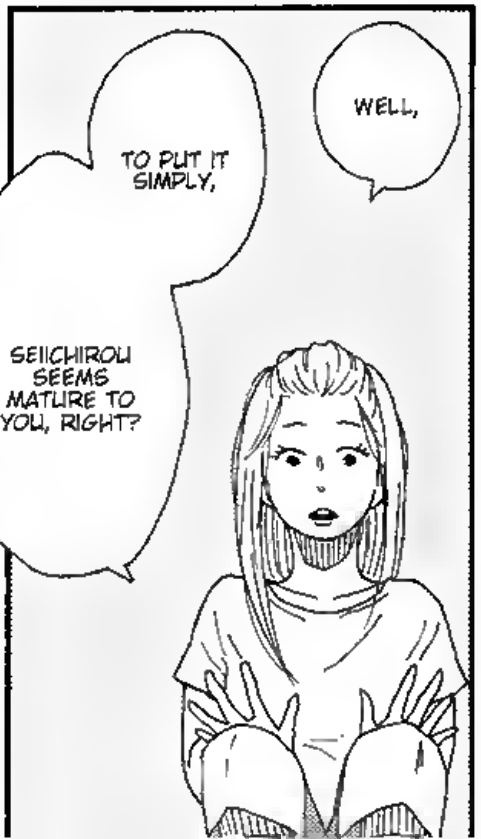
AH
NOTHING REALLY...
I get it!
YOU HAD A DIRTY DREAM.
Lewd brat! Eww!
I MEAN, YOUR WHOLE FACE IS BEET RED.
HUH?
Well, it's hot.
DON'T LUMP ME WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!
UGLY!!
Seriously
THAT MOUTH OF YOURS!!
THIS IS WHY YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! YOU'RE JUST LOUNGING AROUND THE HOUSE!
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DUMPED BY YOUR SALARY-MAN BOY-FRIEND.
ADULTS ARE BUSY!
I wasn't dumped!~
So noisy.


IN THE TIME WE'RE NOT TOGETHER, I TRY TO IMPROVE MYSELF LIKE THIS.
BESIDES, I AM NOT JUST LYING AROUND.


YOU'RE A STUDENT YOURSELF.
I DON'T WANT TO DATE A STUDENT!
HELL, NO!
They're brats! Brats!


THERE'S A LOT OF TEMPATION IN THE OTHER SIDE.
THEN YOU SHOULD JUST DATE A UNIVERSITY STUDENT.
I can't take it easy.

In the end, that's the kinda thing this is.
Ah, but— If my current boyfriend were a university student... that's that.


WELL,
TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
SEIICHIROU SEEMS MATURE TO YOU, RIGHT?

SHE'S RIGHT.

HE LIVES IN A WORLD

UNKNOWN TO ME.

NEVER MIND PLAYING AROUND.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND DATING.

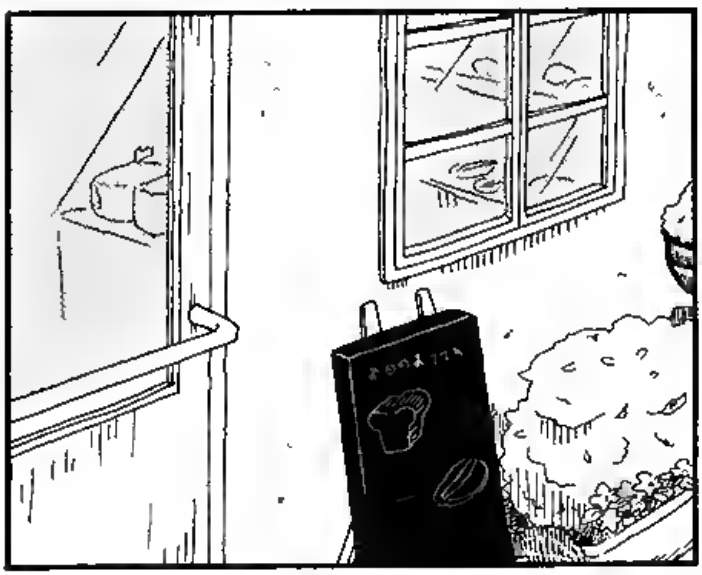
I FEEL LIKE

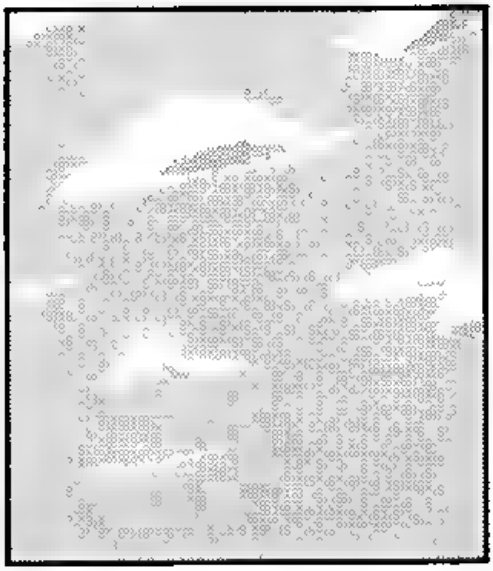
I'M BEING AVOIDED.

SINCE THEN, WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER AT ALL.

DINNER'S READY.
DID I DO SOMETHING?
OKAAAY

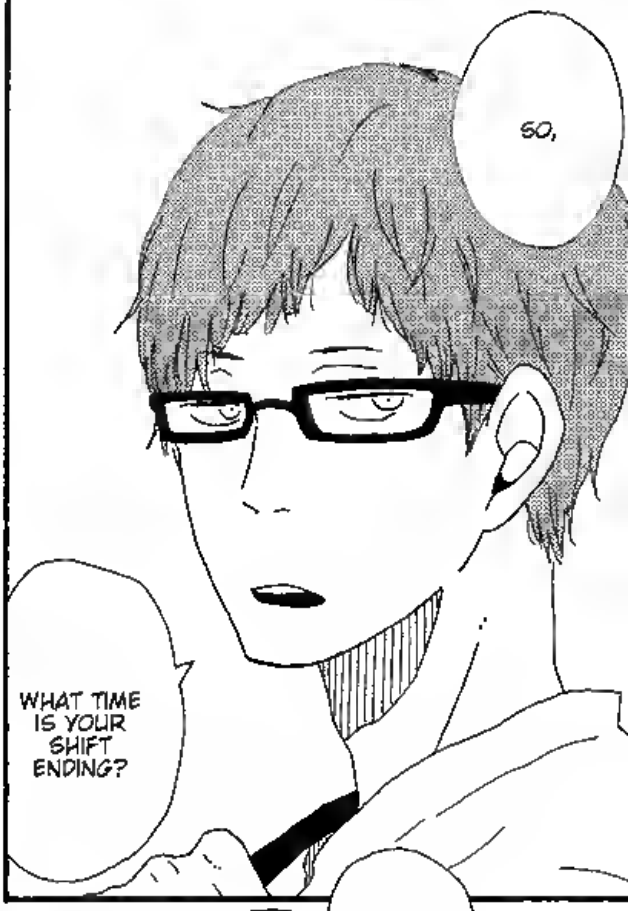
TAKERU, HURRY UP AND COME HERE.
DID I OVERDO IT IN MARIO KART?





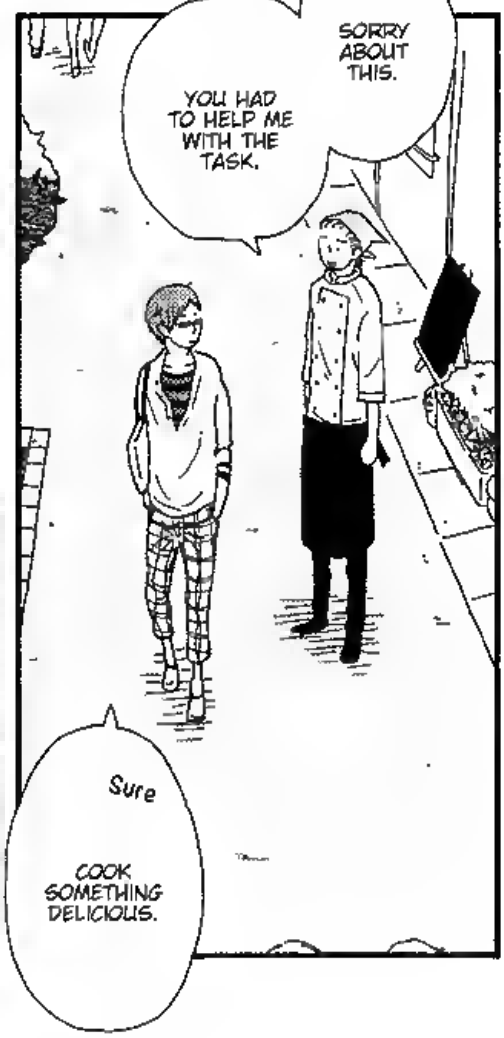
Ah
TOO LONG?
WANT ME TO GIVE YOU MY KEY?
HMM
4 O'CLOCK

I SEE.
I want to stroll around.
I'LL COME LATER.
IT'S FINE.


SO,
WHAT TIME IS YOUR SHIFT ENDING?

See you later!

...HOW DOES HOT POT SOUND?
HOT POT?!
In this heat?!
I CAN'T COOK ANYTHING ELSE.
...figures


SORRY ABOUT THIS.
YOU HAD TO HELP ME WITH THE TASK.
Sure
COOK SOMETHING DELICIOUS.

I'M GOING.
I WON'T BE NEEDING DINNER.
SWAY
SWAY
AH
Shaddup! I HAVE!
I'm goiiing~
SO WHAT?
YOU JUST WOKE UP?
It's already noon.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS?
MOVE.

WHOOP
I'LL EAT LATER.
WHAT ABOUT FOOD?
TUG
OH? GOOD MORNING.
Morning
DING
HEY! IF YOU'RE FREE, WANNA GO FOR KARAOKE?
ヽ(^o^)ノ~♪
IT'S SANO-CHAN.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HAAA. I SANG AND SANG!
MY THROAT HURTS.
LET'S GO DANCING NEXT TIME, OKA-PI.
I'll teach you some moves.
NO WAY. TOO TIRING.
ALL YOU DO IS PLAY GAMES.
YOU HAVE TO MOVE YOUR BODY FROM TIME TO TIME.
...THERE'S P.E. ANYWAY.

WAIT A MINUTE WHO DO YOU PLAY IT WITH?
...SEI-ICHIROU
OH YEAH, I HAVE TO RETURN THE GAMES I BORROWED.
OH?
YOU CAN GIVE IT BACK ANYTIME.
I told you the same thing last time
AH
He's 3 years older, right?
Yeah
Ahh
THE OLDER GUY NEXT DOOR TO YOURS.
HE STILL PLAYS AROUND WHEN HE'S ALREADY A UNIVERSITY STUDENT? (TALKING ABOUT GAMES)
THAT'S AMAZING.
Kinda
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
CIRCLES!
MIXERS!
AND LIVING ALONE!
THE HEIGHT OF FLASHINESS!
EH~
WHEN YOU'RE A UNIVERSITY STUDENT,
WHAT'S AMAZING ABOUT THAT?
I know him in the first place.

I'LL BUY A TICKET.
Yeah
SANO-CHAN, SORRY,
I REMEMBERED I HAD SOMEWHERE TO GO.
ALL GOOD.
Uhh...
Seiichirou
THEN I'LL SEE YOU THIS MONDAY.
YEAH
HIS PLACE IS ONLY
ONE STATION AWAY FROM HERE.

AH!

HELLO? EXCUSE ME!

WHEN SEIICHIROU PICKS UP

AND IF HE'S AT HOME,

I'LL PICK UP THE GAMES I LEFT AT HIS PLACE.

THAT GUY IS IN DEEP TROUBLE!
A FRIEND...?
EH?
Trouble?
IF YOU'RE NEARBY,
A voice I don't know.
WHO IS THIS?!
I'M NAKATSU'S FRIEND!
WAIT! DON'T HANG UP!
WHA?
??
COULD YOU PLEASE COME?
...WAIT
WHAT? WHAT?!
THIS IS SCARY!
RATTLE
RATTLE
REALIZE
KINDA LIKE HE'S BEING ATTACKED...
BUT THE GUY ON THE PHONE SEEMS REALLY FLUSTERED.
IF IT'S AN EMERGENCY, THEN HE SHOULD HAVE CALLED 119.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S A MAN
OR A WOMAN.
I CAN GO BOTH WAYS.

EVEN FOR HIM,
THAT'S...
NO, NO NO.
THAT CAN'T BE IT.

I MEAN SEIICHIROU IS...

HE SAID I DIDN'T NEED THE KEY.
OPEN

LET'S GO OUT.
I'LL BE INTRUDING.

IT'S THIS PATTERN AGAIN.
Fuck off!
AHH.
ON TOP OF THAT...
LET GO!
Ah, I'm free.
AHHH!
Could you possibly be
THE ONE ON THE PHONE?!
WHAAA?
TAKERU...

YOU'RE SCUM.
I CAME HERE AS FAST AS I COULD.
I SEE.
I WAS ON MY WAY HOME FROM THE STATION.
WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE TOGETHER...?
It might be dangerous
YES!
Ahh
Thank you so much!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
He's being quiet.
I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO.
PLEASE GO AHEAD.
U-
USUALLY, HE DOESN'T GET THIS BAD.
His drinking problem is not good.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME.
I SEE.

NAKATSU, I'LL BEAT YOU UP ON MONDAY.
WELL, THEN.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
Yes
...AND HE LEFT.
CLOSE
WHEN I FREAKIN' CALLED YOU, SOMEONE ANSWERED AND SAID THAT YOU WERE IN BIG TROUBLE!
Eh, really? I apologize.
TAKERU,
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

AH,
THERE'S MORE HERE.
OKAY
WELL, THERE'S THAT,
BUT I CAME TO GET THE GAMES TOO.
CLACK
.....
I...
FOR SOME REASON, I ALWAYS THOUGHT
THAT YOU'D ONLY GO FOR WOMEN.
SO YOU WOULD DATE HIM.
EH?
HE'S A GOOD PERSON.
FOR FOLLOWING YOU.
THAT IS...
And you attacked him.

I KEEP SHOWING YOU MY BAD SIDES.
...I FEEL LIKE

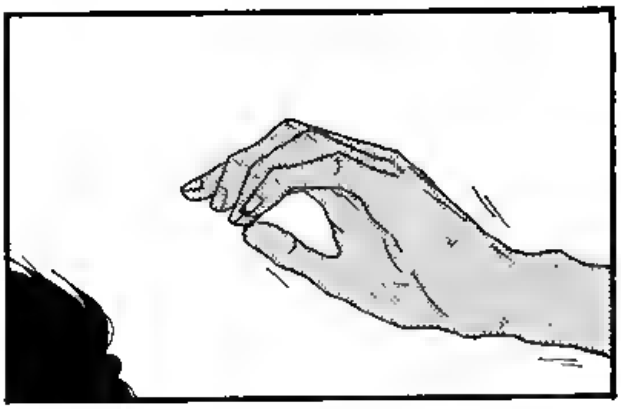
THAT THING EARLIER WAS A BIT...
I OVERDID IT OR SOME-THING...

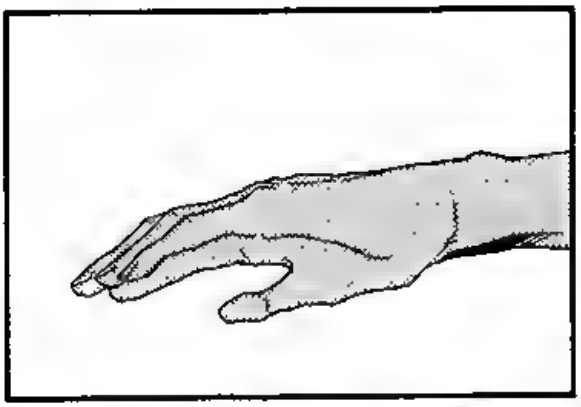
Hm?
FOR ME...

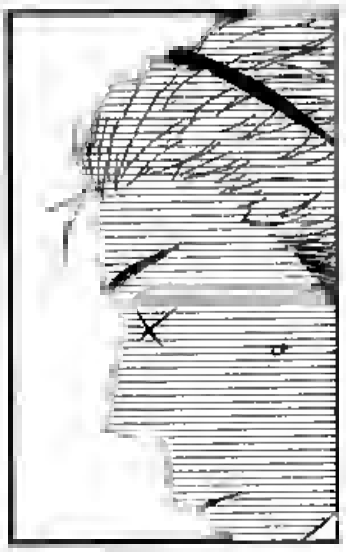
ME? DATE YOU?
I WON'T

YOU SAID YOU LIKED ME,

SO YOU CAN JUST DATE ME.
WHY CAN'T...
...IT JUST BE ME?



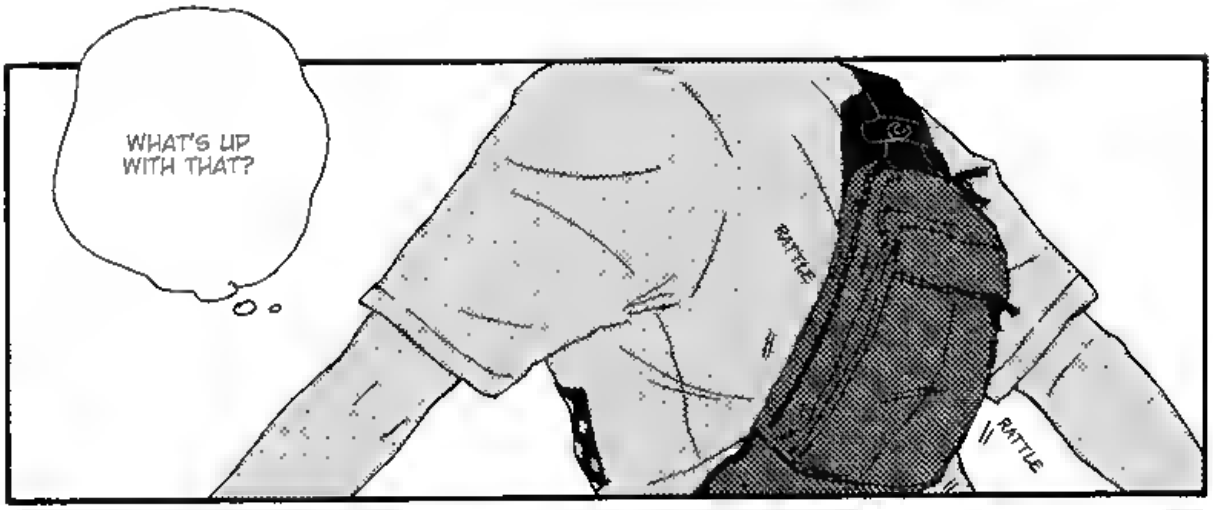




I THINK...

YOU WERE JUST UNDER THAT IMPRESSION.

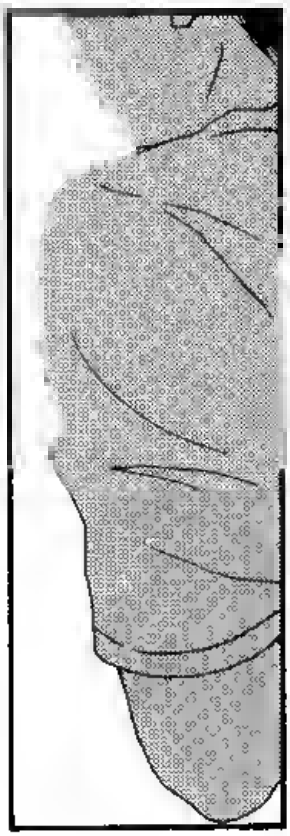
SORRY
I AGREE.
I AM REALLY
BECAUSE I DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THIS IS
I THINK SO, TOO.
NO, IT'S FINE.
THEN I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU TO THE STATION.
I'M GOING HOME.
AH



I'M ANNOYED.

I'M ANNOYED.

I'M ANNOYED.



HE EVEN TOLD ME THAT MY FEELINGS WERE ALL LIES.

THAT GUY WANTS TO PRETEND THAT

NOTHING HAPPENED.

I THOUGHT

I LIKED SEIICHIROU.

step.4●END

AI MO KAWARAZU

BY AYUKAWA HAL

TRANSLATED BY
NAN-CHATTE @TUMBLR
PROOFREAD BY
YAOISQUEEZE @TUMBLR

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